

DEC 20 2013

Clerk, U.S. District Court
District Of Montana
MissoulaIN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

In re: Reassignment of Cases

STANDING ORDER No. DLC-15

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Standing Orders RFC-23, DLC-3, DLC-9, DLC-10, and DLC-11, which have governed case assignments in the District of Montana, are withdrawn.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Standing Order shall govern all case assignments for all matters filed in the divisions of this district:

1) Assignment of Cases Relating to Certain Voting, Electoral, and Constitutional Matters: Regardless of the division of filing, each civil case falling within CM/ECF Nature of Suit Codes 400 (state reapportionment), 441 (voting rights), and 950 (constitutional challenges to state statutes), is to be assigned by random draw from among the following judicial officers: Chief District Judge Dana L. Christensen, District Judge Brian Morris, District Judge Susan P. Watters, District Judge Sam E. Haddon, District Judge Donald W. Molloy, Senior District Judge Charles C. Lovell, Magistrate Judge Carolyn S. Ostby, Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch, and Magistrate Judge Keith Strong.

2) Assignment of cases to United States Magistrate Judges: Unless the

parties consent to the jurisdiction of a magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), in any instance in which a United States magistrate judge is assigned a case under this Order, the following district judges shall preside: For cases venued in the Billings Division, District Judge Susan P. Watters shall be the presiding district judge; for cases venued in the Great Falls Division, District Judge Brian Morris shall be the presiding district judge; for cases venued in the Missoula and Helena Divisions, Chief District Judge Dana L. Christensen shall be the presiding district judge; and for cases venued in the Butte Division, District Judge Donald W. Molloy shall be the presiding district judge.¹

3) Billings Division: Excepting those cases described in Paragraph 1, civil cases filed in the Billings Division shall be assigned to District Judge Susan P. Watters and Magistrate Judge Carolyn S. Ostby in accordance with the Local Rules of Procedure. The random assignment of such cases, except as otherwise provided by statute, shall be done such that three eighths (3/8) of the civil cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Watters and five eighths (5/8) to Judge Ostby.

Criminal cases filed in the Billings Division shall be assigned to District Judge Susan P. Watters.

¹This Standing Order supersedes D. Mont. L.R. 72.2(b) to the limited extent necessary to give effect to this paragraph.

4) Butte Division: Excepting those cases described in Paragraph 1, civil cases filed in the Butte Division shall be assigned to District Judge Donald W. Molloy, District Judge Sam E. Haddon, and Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch in accordance with the Local Rules of Procedure. The random assignment of such cases, except as otherwise provided by statute, shall be done such that one eighth ($1/8$) of the civil cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Molloy, three eighths ($3/8$) to Judge Haddon, and one half ($1/2$) to Judge Lynch.

Criminal cases filed in the Butte Division shall be assigned to Chief District Judge Dana L. Christensen.

5) Great Falls Division: Excepting those cases described in Paragraph 1, civil cases filed in the Great Falls Division shall be assigned to District Judge Brian Morris and Magistrate Judge Keith Strong in accordance with the Local Rules of Procedure. The random assignment of such cases, except as otherwise provided by statute, shall be done such that one half ($1/2$) of the civil cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Morris and one half ($1/2$) to Judge Strong.

Criminal cases filed in the Great Falls Division shall be assigned to District Judge Brian Morris.

6) Helena Division: Excepting those cases described in Paragraph 1, civil cases filed in the Helena Division shall be assigned to District Judge Sam E.

Haddon, Senior Judge Charles C. Lovell and Magistrate Judge Keith Strong in accordance with the Local Rules of Procedure. The random assignment of such cases, except as otherwise provided by statute, shall be done such that three sixteenths (3/16) of the civil cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Haddon, three sixteenths (3/16) to Judge Lovell, and five eighths (5/8) to Judge Strong.

Any criminal case filed in the Helena Division in which any of the following statutory offenses is charged shall be assigned to Senior Judge Charles C. Lovell:

18 U.S.C. §§ 116, 117, 2241–2245, 2251–2258B, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2252B, 2252C, and 2253.

Collectively, criminal case assignments in the Helena Division shall be made such that one half (1/2) of the criminal cases filed shall be assigned to District Judge Sam E. Haddon, and one half (1/2) to Judge Lovell.

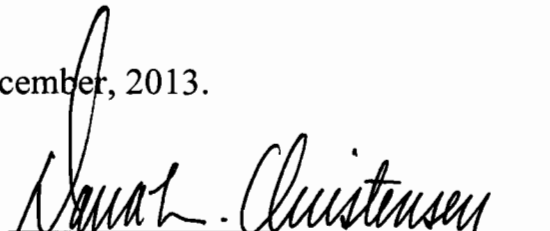
7) Missoula Division: All civil cases filed in the Missoula Division shall be assigned to Chief District Judge Dana L. Christensen, District Judge Donald W. Molloy, and Magistrate Judge Jeremiah C. Lynch in accordance with the Local Rules of Procedure. The random assignment of such cases, except as otherwise provided by statute, shall be done such that one half (1/2) of the civil cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Christensen, one sixth (1/6) to Judge Molloy, and one

third (1/3) to Judge Lynch.

Criminal cases filed in the Missoula Division shall be assigned to Chief District Judge Dana L. Christensen and District Judge Donald W. Molloy on a random basis, such that three quarters (3/4) of the criminal cases filed shall be assigned to Judge Christensen and one quarter (1/4) to Judge Molloy.

The clerk shall immediately inform all divisional offices, the judicial officers of this district, and the United States Probation Office of the entry of this Order.

DATED this 20th day of December, 2013.


Dana L. Christensen, Chief Judge
United States District Court